

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00573 131519Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6630
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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 0573

FOR BEWT/TDAD (STECHSCHULTE), BEWT/USSR (HEISS)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, EAGR, EIND, EALR
SUBJECT: SOVIETS PLAN TO CONSTRUCT PLANT TO MANUFACTURE SMALL
TRACTORS

1. TRAKTOROEXPORT HAS ADVISED U.S. BUSINESS REP HERE THAT SOVIETS ARE ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FROM A NUMBER OF FOREIGN FIRMS FOR DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY OF PLANT TO PRODUCE AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS OF LESS THAN 15 HP. SOURCE SAID PRODUCTION LEVEL TO BE 50,000 UNITS PER ANNUM. ACCORDING TO TRAKTOROEXPORT, J.I. CASE, INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, AND DEERE INTERNATIONAL AMONG OTHERS, HAVE SUBMITTED PROPOSALS. JAPANESE ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY ACTIVELY COMPETING FOR PLANT CONTRACT. TWO JAPANESE FIRMS ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO CONDUCT A SYMPOSIUM IN SOVIET GEORGIA SHORTLY ON THE SUBJECT OF SMALL TRACTOR PRODUCTION.

2. COMMENT: SINCE INTENDED PRODUCTION LEVEL IS QUITE SUBSTANTIAL, QUESTION NATURALLY ARISES OF LONG-TERM GOAL OF REPORTED NEW FACILITY. SMALL GARDEN-TYPE TRACTORS MAY BE DESIGNED FOR USE ON PRIVATE PLOTS IN COLLECTIVE FARMS, FOR LANDSCAPING, OR PRINCIPALLY FOR EXPORT. WHILE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC PRIVATE DEMAND FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY FOR DACHA
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OWNERS, PRIMARY PURPOSE FOR THIS SCALE OF PRODUCTION IS PROBABLY TO PROVIDE FOR LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC AREAS WHICH ARE TOO CONFINED FOR LARGER CONVENTIONAL TRACTORS, SECONDLY FOR EXPORT, TO CEMA THIRDLY FOR PRIVATE USE.
MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: BEXP, EAGR, EIND, EALR
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